

REMARKS

Independent Claim 1 stands currently amended. Claim 15 stands previously canceled. Claims 8-14 and 16-20 stand previously withdrawn. As such, Claims 1-14 and 16-21 are currently pending. The following remarks are considered by Applicants to supplement the Amendment/Response filed on September 30, 2009, and overcome each of the Examiner's outstanding rejections to current Claims 1-7 and 21. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

On November 3, 2009, a telephonic interview with the Examiner was held in which the Amendment/Response filed on September 30, 2009, was discussed. In particular, Examiner agreed that the current rejections of Claim 1 would be overcome if Claim 1 was amended so as to delete the language referring to "an equivalent" of a fragment of CD4. As such, Applicants have hereby amended Claim 1 according to the teleconference with the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request Examiner withdraw the outstanding rejections to Claim 1.

In addition, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner refer to the Amendment/Response filed on September 30, 2009, for any arguments regarding the remaining pending claims, which each ultimately depend from independent Claim 1.

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Based upon the above remarks, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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